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AIR RAID.

BOMBS ON PARIS.

THE BALKANS.

HINT TO GREECE.

AMERICA AND GERMANY.

A Zeppelin dropped thirteen bombs on Paris. Nine houses were wrecked, seven persons killed, and twenty-two injured.

The Allies are said to have hinted to Greece that it would be in her interest to demobilise in view of approaching developments.

The British artillery carried out bombardments at various points on the western front, considerably damaging the trenches.

Bad weather is being experienced in Mesopotamia. General Sir Percy Lake has joined General Aylmer.

In the course of a speech, President Wilson made a strong plea for the military preparedness of the United States.

In Washington the speech is regarded as the last warning to Germany that she must give satisfaction for the sinking of the Lusitania.

LINER MISSING.

BATTERED BOAT PICKED UP.

DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS.

LONDON, Jan. 29. The West African liner *Albatross* (7781 tons), which sailed with 100 passengers, is believed to have been lost. A battered lifeboat from the vessel has been picked up at Madeira.

The most serious fears are entertained with regard to the *Albatross*, which was bound for London. Eighty per cent. has to be paid to release the liner, which is now six days overdue, has been posted as missing.

A message from Liverpool states that the steamer *Albatross* had encountered heavy storms between the Canaries and Cape Finisterre. The steamer *Troglodytes*, which was bound for London, was also reported as missing.

The mystery surrounding the *Albatross* recalls the fate of the *Waratah* (which disappeared off the African coast), and it is feared that she has been lost with all hands.

The *Albatross* was one of the *Edith* line's latest additions. She was built at Liverpool, and was fitted with the latest wireless apparatus. There were 87 first-class passengers on board. Captain Harrison was one of the best-known West African navigators.

The *Albatross* left London on January 11, and was last seen on January 17. The captain of the *Troglodytes* sighted the ship's boat on the 21st near Tenerife, and went alongside. The boat, which was quite new, was capable of carrying 10 persons, and was probably damaged through a passing steamer.

A search has revealed no wreckage, and the company suggests that as one boat was missing others may still be picked up by passing vessels.

It is reported that there were 200 passengers and 112 of the crew aboard. In addition to the *Albatross*, the *Edith* line's *Albatross* was one of the best-known West African navigators.

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THE BALKANS.

SUCCESSFUL AIR RAID.

GREEK FORT OCCUPIED.

LONDON, Jan. 30. A Salonica message states that the Allies' marines have occupied the Greek fort of Karaburnu Peninsula, which the Greek commandant evacuated after protest.

A message from Salonica states that French aeroplanes made a magnificent raid on the German-Bulgarian camp at Tzazari, north-west of Lake Dolina. The damage done was considerable, and all the machines returned unscathed.

The "Observer" correspondent at Athens says the Allies have hinted to Greece that it would be in her interest to demobilise in view of approaching developments.

The Paris "Matin" states that the Italians in Albania have definitely joined with Essad Pasha's forces, and are fortifying Valona and elsewhere, in order to bar the enemy's advance.

ROUMANIA'S ATTITUDE.

The Berlin "Zeitung" Sofia correspondent says that four-fifths of the Roumanians fit for service are under arms, the majority being along the Roumanian-Bulgarian frontier, while the troops on the Serbian front are in a state of demobilisation.

The Paris "Matin" states that the Roumanian heavy artillery is along the frontiers of Bulgaria and Hungary. The Entente Powers do not conceal their expectation that when the much-advertised general offensive begins Roumania and Greece will be forced to join the Entente.

Therefore, says the correspondent, to request Roumania for an explanation of her attitude.

"WON BULGARIA'S HEART."

M. Lloft (Bulgarian Minister in Berlin) in an interview in the "Kölnische Zeitung" says the German Emperor has won Bulgaria's heart. The Emperor has presented to Bulgaria the entire German body in Serbia, including 200 guns and material valued at 35,000,000 marks, and £1,700,000.

He feared that the Entente Powers would compel Greece to submit to the Entente, but if this came to the worst the Quadruple Alliance was powerful enough to subjugate Greece.

An Austrian communiqué says: Inclusive of Lovren, the body includes 214 guns, 50,000 rifles, and 50 machine guns.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

CONFIDENT OF VICTORY.

WHAT BRITAIN IS DOING.

The Milan "Secolo" was accorded an interview by Mr. Lloyd George, who said: "I am satisfied with what we are doing. We have 250,000 men, employing 1,500,000 men, and 250,000 women. We are satisfying, not only the requirements of our own army, but supplying the Allies, particularly Russia. French journalists have inspected our factories. The Russians and Italians will inspect them shortly. I am perfectly confident of victory, because the Allies at last are taking control of their own destinies. France, Russia, and Italy will reorganise their armies. We had to create a new one. We have three millions under arms, and by the spring will have a million more."

Asked as to the possibility of the war ending in a military stalemate, Mr. Lloyd George said: "That would not be the end. Victory must be real and final. The pressure on the enemy is becoming greater. They are spreading their frontiers temporarily, but weakening the military. Hence the process of strangulation is slow but sure. The Central Empires are losing touch with their own resources. It is a grim struggle, but the enemy is on the down grade. We may make mistakes, but we never give up."

LABOUR AND WAR.

BRISTOL CONFERENCE.

CONTROL OF FOREIGN POLICY.

The Labour Conference passed a resolution by a large majority favouring labour representatives remaining in the coalition Government.

A resolution was also passed demanding drastic revision of the Munitions Act to prevent the war being used as a pretext for greater coercion of labour.

Mr. F. W. Jowett, M.P., moved a resolution insisting on Parliamentary control of the foreign policy, and opposing the transfer of territory without the consent of the inhabitants, and urging a drastic reduction of armaments as part of any peace settlement.

After an animated debate the motion was negatived by 1,045,000 votes to 688,000.

The Conference unanimously adopted the Independent Labour Party's resolution in favour of covering the cost of the war by a tax on the profits of the war.

The resolution was moved by Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., and seconded by Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P.

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WESTERN FRONT.

ENEMY ATTACKS.

SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED.

LONDON, Jan. 30. A Paris communiqué states: The enemy, after a violent bombardment, attacked several kilometres of our front south of the Somme. The assault completely failed, except at the village of Fricke overlooking the Somme. The enemy's attack for the present has been stopped. In our first counter-attack we recaptured some of the lost trenches.

Several German attacks in the Artois region were repulsed with heavy loss. Our heavy guns set fire to a magazine in Friche Valley, causing many explosions.

Westward of Hill 140 we continued to recapture elements of the captured trenches, and liberated 500 German soldiers, who were taken prisoners on Friday. We repulsed attempts to retake two craters southward of La Folle-road.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports that the Germans, under cover of a heavy rifle and artillery fire, attempted an infantry attack on our salient, north-east of Loos, but were driven back.

After a heavy bombardment the enemy entered some saps near Carnoy, but were driven out early in the morning. They abandoned some dead and wounded.

We repulsed bombing attacks at the Hulluch quarries and near Givency.

Shelling about Loos has been heavy, but has not resulted in any serious damage. Our artillery has replied vigorously, and carried out the bombardment at other points, considerably damaging the trenches.

GERMANS HOOTED.

Crowds who were watching Anglo-French prisoners passing through Liege and the German guards, and cheered England and France. The Germans charged the crowds with fixed bayonets, and dispersed them.

A GERMAN CLAIM.

A German communiqué states: North-west of Napoli Farm, which is north-east of Neuville, we stormed the enemy trench over 1700 yards, securing nine machine guns. We captured a suspension bridge near Aras, and captured Friche village. We also took 1000 yards of the adjoining trenches, and secured 307 prisoners, 13 machine guns, and four mine throwers.

It is reported in Rotterdam that a new base has been established at Zebrugge for sea planes and Fokkers.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHARP-SHOOTERS.

SIR ABE BAILEY'S OFFER.

Sir Abe Bailey intends raising, equipping, and transporting 100 South African sharpshooters for service in Europe.

Sir Abe Bailey is one of the principal mine owners in South Africa, and was at one time M.L.A. for Krugersdorp Transvaal. He served in the Boer war, and has the King's and Queen's medals with six clasps. He is also well known in sporting circles.

"For that matter I would not give a half-penny for the sort of man who is easily induced to fight against the land of his birth. A few fine spirits maintain the Australian Peace Society, but there is no national division on the war. The spirit of equality and adventure in Australia has been wonderful. Our women have done their part. There are no doubts about carrying on the war. We are certain when Australian opinions are expressed they will be heard, and when heard will be considered. We do not wish to criticise or question the acts of those responsible for carrying on the war. Some day we may have something to say, but the time has not yet come when matters incidental to the war can be discussed. At important points an ally is usually consulted. Meanwhile we are with England to the end in men, money, heart, and arms."

RAILWAY SENSATION.

SOLDIER'S DEATH.

A strange affair is reported at the Great Central Railway. A girl named Violet Reynolds, 18 years of age, was returning home by the midnight train from Marylebone, when a soldier jumped into the compartment as it was moving out. She was frightened at the soldier's manner, and opened the train left Northwood, and opened the door and climbed out on to the foot-board. She remained on the foot-board until the train stopped at Rickmansworth, where the officials found the carriage door open and the woman's coat on the floor. They searched the line, and found the girl wandering about in a dazed state. On a further search being made in daylight the soldier's body was found, and by the girl's bag. It has been found that the girl was in the compartment since October, and attended the carriages at Euston Hall on Wednesday. An inquest was opened, and adjourned until February 11.

The girl Reynolds states that the soldier suddenly rushed across the carriage and knocked her down. He first put his hand on her head, and then on her chin, and then on her breast. She was prevented from shouting. She wrenched away her hand, shrieked, and grasped the handle of the door, which flew open. She clung to the strap and hung over the side, seemingly for some minutes. She does not remember any more. When she fell she lost her memory for some time, as the result of the shock.

The landlady with whom the soldier had been lodging at Rickmansworth describes him as quiet, nice, and most regular in his habits.

ARMED MERCHANTMEN.

AMERICAN NOTE.

TO BELLIGERENT POWERS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. The United States Government has notified all European Governments that merchantmen in the future must not carry any armament. If guns are found on board merchantmen, they will be declared contrary to American policy.

Mr. R. Lansing (Secretary of State for America), in a Note to the belligerents, notifies the Powers that unless they subscribe to the following principles, armed merchantmen will be denied entry into American ports, except on the conditions applying to warships—

(1) A belligerent merchantman has a right to rely on the rules of international law and humanity.

(2) A merchantman of any nationality is not to be subject to an attack without warning.

(3) A belligerent merchantman should promptly obey an order to stop.

(4) A merchant ship should not be fired on unless she tries to resist. Even then the attack should cease directly the fight or resistance ceases.

(5) Sinking is justified only if it is impossible to supply a prize crew. In that case passengers and crew must be removed to safety.

Mr. Lansing adds that, in view of the extensive use of submarines, which armed merchantmen are able to attack, there is grave doubt if it is legal for merchant ships to carry any armament. He therefore asks the Powers to make the above declaration, on condition that their enemies make similar declarations.

EASTERN FRONT.

BESSARABIA.

AN ENEMY REPORT.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 30. It is reported from Petrograd that a fire has been raging for several days at Vilna. All the wooden quarters have been consumed.

An Austrian communiqué states: We captured a number of advanced Russian trenches at Toporova (Bessarabia).

MR. FISHER.

INTERVIEWED IN PARIS.

AUSTRALIA AND THE WAR.

PARIS, Jan. 29. The British Chamber of Commerce entertained Mr. Andrew Fisher (High Commissioner for Australia) at luncheon at the Hotel Ritz. Sir Francis Bertie was present.

The "Daily Chronicle's" Paris correspondent says that Mr. Fisher, though greyer than in 1911, is still a wiry, little figure. He seemed to bring into the old European world the breath of healthy air. His coming reminds us that Australia has given thousands of her best lives, not for the love of warfare, but because she cannot tolerate menace to the old home.

Mr. Fisher, who was interviewed in Paris, said the war had not materially interfered with Australia commercially. The overseas trade was determined more by seasons than wars. The diminution of transport lessened the exports, but prices were higher. Australia was not grumbling on the score of trade. She had no great embarrassments financially, thanks to the British Government's help, supplied by reserve national note issue, and the co-operation of private banks. The price of living had advanced, but not more than in other countries.

"Australia's spirit since the war," he said, "has been splendid. There is no thought but to see the Old Country through. One needs to go to the Colonies to see what patriotism means. There is no selfishness, and the backbones are on the way, and more are preparing. Australia is all right."

A UNITED PEOPLE.

A representative of the Australian Press Association also had an interview in Paris with Mr. Fisher, who said: "Our men did their work in Gallipoli. Nothing more was expected. Ours are a proud people, physically strong, accustomed by their life to the open air, and the King's and Queen's medals with six clasps. He is also well known in sporting circles."

"For that matter I would not give a half-penny for the sort of man who is easily induced to fight against the land of his birth. A few fine spirits maintain the Australian Peace Society, but there is no national division on the war. The spirit of equality and adventure in Australia has been wonderful. Our women have done their part. There are no doubts about carrying on the war. We are certain when Australian opinions are expressed they will be heard, and when heard will be considered. We do not wish to criticise or question the acts of those responsible for carrying on the war. Some day we may have something to say, but the time has not yet come when matters incidental to the war can be discussed. At important points an ally is usually consulted. Meanwhile we are with England to the end in men, money, heart, and arms."

Asked about the economic effects of the war in Australia, he said: "So far they are not serious. The debt has been increased, but money has been raised without difficulty."

Questioned regarding the future and the movement for economic agreement against our enemies, he said: "No doubt there will be a flow of people to the distant Dominions. I am sure Australia and New Zealand will receive immigrants with open arms and give them every possible opportunity. Regarding trade agreements there will be a new heaven and a new earth after the war."

"All our financial prophets have been deceived by what has happened. No mortal can tell what conditions may arise." He emphasised the need for good facilities for travel, which would personally acquaint Britons with colonial conditions. He laid stress on the importance of a cheap cable service as the most valuable to between the mother country and the Dominions. He was cordially gratified at Sir George Reid's entry into the House of Commons.

Replying to a question, he said no change in the Commonwealth Government was in prospect.

AUSTRALIAN TRUTH.

TONNAGE SPACE FOR BRITAIN.

LONDON, Jan. 28. The Agents-General at a meeting decided to definitely inquire the British Government's intentions with regard to the Australian fruit trade. It is believed that Australian fruit will come forward normally. Britain has not cancelled arrangements for ships.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

PROTEST AGAINST CLOSING.

The agitation is increasing protesting against the closing of the museums and picture galleries, particularly the British Museum. The protesters point out that many Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian soldiers are now visiting London for the first and perhaps the only time. They are in charge of the Hostels Club of the Overseas. They are unanimous in the opinion that the soldiers on furlough would welcome the opportunity of visiting the galleries, the alternative being that they will often spend their leisure hours in gossiping in public-houses and tea shops.

PARIS.

ZEPPELIN RAID.

SEVEN FATALITIES.

TWENTY-TWO PERSONS INJURED.

PARIS, Jan. 30. The Prefect of Police at a quarter to 10 o'clock on Saturday night enforced the measures prescribed in case of an air raid. The city was plunged in darkness, firemen traveling the principal streets with bells and bugles in order to warn the citizens of aeroplanes entrained with the protection of Paris were dispersed in all directions. About 10 o'clock there were several loud reports, and it was ascertained that a Zeppelin had thrown bombs. There were a number of victims.

Disregarding the warning to take cover crowds rushed into the boulevards, and eagerly watched the skies. The numbers increased at 11 o'clock, when the theatres were emptied, for nowhere was a single programme interrupted as a result of the alarm.

A thick mist hung over the city at a height of 2000 ft., diminishing the penetrating power of the searchlights and hampering the work of the anti-aircraft guns.

The purring of the aeroplanes chasing the Zeppelin could be distinctly heard. The Zeppelin, which was flying at a great height, was fired upon as it disappeared. The victims at one point numbered 15. Elsewhere a man, three women, and two children were killed. Others were killed by the collapse of a house.

One bomb killed several people and caused damage to property.

Thirteen bombs were dropped. Nine houses were wrecked. Seven persons were killed, the majority in their homes. No one was killed in the streets. Twenty-two persons were injured.

President Poincaré and M. Maly (Minister of the Interior) visited the stricken centres. The bombs were most powerful. One roared up and burst a tree 20 yards to the roof of a building. Another injured 15 persons.

The morning it was announced that the raid had ended.

A police officer and his wife were among the killed. The 15 mentioned included some of those who were killed.

THE BLOCKADE.

VALUE OF SEA POWER.

BELEAGUED CENTRAL POWERS.

LONDON, Jan. 30. A Zurich message says that Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, in an article in a Budapest newspaper, says that England, by remaining mistress of the sea, has stopped the Central Powers carrying on overseas commerce—even the passage of foodstuffs through neutral countries. Count Tisza adds: "It is mainly through England's cold, calculating, cruel policy that a condition of things which formerly applied to beleaguered towns is now applied to 150,000,000 people."

SUSPICION OF FRAUD.

It is officially stated that 142 tons of meat were found aboard the steamer *Stockholm*. The meat was originally entered on the ship's manifest, but had been struck out, and was not represented in the bill of lading. As the British Consul sealed the hatches at New York the allegation in the manifest arouses a suspicion of fraud.

MUNITIONS.

CONFERENCE IN PARIS.

PARIS, Jan. 30. A commission, consisting of Mr. Lloyd George (Minister of Munitions), Mr. Bonar Law (Secretary of State for the Colonies), General Sir William R. Robertson, and J. P. Du Cane, A. H. Lee, M.P. (Unionist), and J. I. Macpherson, M.P. (Liberal), arrived to confer with M. Thomas (French Minister for Munitions) regarding the speeding up of the output of munitions, and a closer co-operation with regard to production.

Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues attended two meetings, one at the Ministry of War, with members of the General Staff, and the other with artillery experts, for the purpose of framing a common armaments programme for the Allies.

EMBARGO ON IMPORTS.

RESTRICTIONS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Jan. 30. Mr. Walter Runciman (President of the Board of Trade) presided at sixteen important trade conferences during the week, and was working far into each night deciding the details of the proposed embargo on imports. It is expected that a proclamation regarding paper, building materials, and wood will be issued in a few days, and a second, dealing with fruit and tobacco, within a fortnight.

The "Daily Mail" states that all fruit will be prohibited, except bananas, and the consumption restricted to home-grown.

The Board of Trade is determined that merchants with accumulated stocks will not be allowed an extortionate profit.

VESSELS BOMBED.

BY TURKISH AEROPLANES.

A Turkish communiqué claims that aeroplanes bombed a monitor in Kephala Bay, causing a fire aft. They pursued the monitor for twelve hours, bombing three destroyers coming to her assistance. One of these was hit. The aeroplane also dropped bombs on a big transport in Kephala Bay.

IN GERMANY.

POLICY OF CONCEALMENT.

The Berlin "Post" deplores the financial situation and the Government's policy of concealment. It declares that it will be a great mistake if the people are not gradually acquainted with the position, which is terrifying. But few people have any idea how serious it is, and even the slightest change of opinion will not prevent superstitious additions being necessary in the next Budget.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

FURTHER RUSSIAN VICTORIES.

PRISONERS AND MUNITIONS CAPTURED.

LONDON, Jan. 30. A Petrograd communiqué states: We defeated a large number of Turkish forces south of Lake Urmia, taking many prisoners. We also drove the enemy southwards in the neighbourhood of Kandallan Pass.

We crushed the Turkish column west of Malazgirt, capturing many prisoners and much munitions and material. We pursued the fugitives, and entered Khaykale (between Erzerum and Mush) on their heels, capturing more prisoners and great reserves of munitions and supplies. The Turks are fleeing towards Mush.

It is officially announced that General Sir Percy Lake has joined General Aylmer on the Wadi. The weather is bad, the whole country being deep in mud. The movements of the troops are attended with much difficulty.

AT A GREAT HEIGHT.

Disregarding the warning to take cover crowds rushed into the boulevards, and eagerly watched the skies. The numbers increased at 11 o'clock, when the theatres were emptied, for

Flores winning hill on Saturday

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Arch Irony wanted. Constant.
ry, Bishop-st, Burwood.

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